

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 270900Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3173

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8347

EXDIS

BEIRUT PLEASE PASS TO USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IZ, SY, TU

SUBJECT: IRAN-IRAQ RELATIONS

REF: (A) TEHRAN 8016 (NOTAL); (B) TEHRAN 8155 (NOTAL)

1. AT AUDIENCE MORNING AUGUST 27, ASKED SHAH WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS WHICH PRESIDENT BAKR SENT THROUGH HIS FOREIGN MINISTER ON AUGUST 19 (CF. PAR 1, REF (A) AND PARA 1, REF (B). SHAH REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT BAKR WANTED HIM TO ACCEDE TO A GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ REQUEST THAT IRAN AND IRAQ NOT DEAL JOINTLY WITH SYRIA AND TURKEY CONCERNING THE WATERS OF THE SHATT AL ARAB. WHEN LOOK OF PUZZLEMENT CROSSED MY FACE, SHAH POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS RISE IN TURKEY AND PASS THROUGH SYRIA AND IRAQ, THEY CONSTITUTE, ALONG WITH THE KAROON RIVER, THE WATERS OF THE SHATT AL ARAB. THE SHAH WENT ON TO STATE THAT HE HAD AGREED TO YIELD TO THE IRAQI WISHES IN THIS MATTER SINCE A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN THE LEVEL OF THE SHATT AL ARAB WOULD AFFECT IRAN ADVERSELY ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT IT MIGHT THREATEN SEVERAL THOUSAND PALM TREES ON THE IRANIAN SHORE. HE FIGURES THAT IRAN CAN DIVERT THE KAROON RIVER SUFFICIENT-

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LY TO HANDLE THE PALM-TREE PROBLEM. FURTHER, THE SHAH FEELS THAT IT WILL BE EASIER ON HIS RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

AND TURKEY IF IRAQ GOES IT ALONE ON THIS QUESTION.

2. COMMENT: TURKISH DAMS AND THE SYRIAN CONTROL OF THE
WATER FLOW FROM THE EUPHRATES ARE CLEARLY GIVING THE
GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ A SIGNIFICANT HEADACHE. WHY IT WANTS
TO DEAL ON ITS OWN WITH SYRIA AND TURKEY IS LESS CLEAR,
AND WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INSIGHTS ADDRESSES MIGHT HAVE.
HELMS

SECRET

NNN

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